



Tempe Public Art



platFORM - Cycle 3

Dave Higley, Ashley Bennardo, & Jephry Curtis

Natural Monolith, 2015-2016

Dyed concrete, glass tile, steel, LED lights, and solar panels

Location: Bike Corral at Tempe Beach Park

Photo by: Sean Deckert

The public art programs of Tempe, Scottsdale, and Chandler have partnered in platFORM, a multi-city, student sculpture initiative that provides currently-enrolled Arizona student-artists the opportunity to create artwork for temporary showcase in public places. platFORM aims to prepare emerging artists for future public art opportunities and to gain a wider exposure for their work.

Description: The artists teamed up while in studio class at Mesa Community College. They sought to create a sculpture that would complement the beauty of the Arizona landscape during the day and transform at night to highlight the modern forms present in our growing communities. The artwork embodies our unique community – an urban society nestled at the heart of a distinct environment. The sculpture is a triptych with green pigmented concrete facades that bring out the natural green tones of the plant life and environment during the day. At night, the concrete blends with the darkness while LED lights illuminate the inset glass from behind.

Artist biographies: Higley is a student at Mesa Community College, pursuing an AA in Fine Arts with a focus in sculpture and painting. The platFORM project has helped expand his artistic ability in both developing and executing a complex project.

Bennardo completed an AA in Fine Arts from Mesa Community College in 2015, and has since transferred to Arizona State University to complete a degree in Art Studies. Bennardo's experience with platFORM has encouraged her to explore three dimensional pieces and has expanded her focus from purely personal works to those that are impactful to her community.

Curtis is currently finalizing Fine Art and Digital Illustration degrees at Mesa Community College. He plans to continue creating art fulltime, and feels that this platFORM project will be a springboard into many other artistic opportunities.

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